

Ad-hoc Agricultural Assessment Work Group

7500 Odawa Circle, Harbor Springs, MI 49740

Meeting Minutes May 8, 2013 NRD Conference Room

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:15am.
2. Alan Proctor, Doug Craven, John Keshick and Regina Brubaker-Carver were present. Renee Dillard, Kevin Gasco and Michele Keshick were absent.

Guests: Ellie Payton – Mobility Coordinator, Dan Berg, Michael Garrow, LTBB
Department of Treasury

3. Minutes – February 4, 2013, March 6, 2013 meeting minutes, April 8, 2013 meeting minutes.
4. New Business
 - a. JK – scheduled to take interested LTBB Council members on a tour of Parcel #54. Further reports that funds for potential purchase of Parcel #54 are tight.
 - b. RB – Has ordered baskets for container gardens along with plants for distribution. Plants include 100 tomato, 100 peppers and 50 acorn squash. JK – reports that Danny Berg sometimes has excess plants and there may be an opportunity to acquire some. RB further states that the tomatoes are heirlooms. RB - Herman's Garden, a seed growers exchange, provides seeds from previous years and will forward contact via email to AAWG.
 - c. AP – Reports from BB that Youth are interested in managing 2 beds within the hoop house.
 - d. DC – Youth Conservation Corps Leader has been hired, as part of duties will help with Hoop House and will also coordinate activities with the Youth Department. The Youth Corps will comprise 4 kids, ages 14-18.
 - e. DC - Mini grants for scholarships for tribal youth to attend 4-H Great Lakes Natural Resources Camp at Camp Chickagami on Presque Isle, MI were approved, but deadline for this year's camp expired May 1st, 2013. Additionally, camp is full and grants are to be expended by April, 2014 which creates logistic barrier to camp participation for next year. DC to try and pre-pay camp dues while coordinating with Dionardo Pizana, grant facilitator. Grants are result of LTBB participation with the Relationship Building for Better Partnerships: Anishnaabe Tribes & MSUE sessions are administered directly through MSU in partnership with LTBB and MSUE for specific projects within the LTBB community.
 - f. RB and JK – will gather information to purchase roto-tiller and trailer for use within LTBB community.
5. Prior Action Items – for report to AAWG at next scheduled meeting.
 - a. Potential Funding Opportunities

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- i. AP – Passed contact information on for Indian Land Capital, CDFI
 - ii. MG – Will call Sovereign Finance
 - iii. DC – research USDA Loan Program. – Reports that a Tribal Program exists within its loan structure.
- b. RB –Starter plants, seeds were delivered to Becky on April 10th and will follow up to get a timeline.
- c. BB – Unable to attend meeting, but reports to AP that Youth is interested in 4-H Great Lakes Natural Resources Camp at Camp Chickagami, in addition to Youth crop stand and other fund raising opportunities associated with agriculture.
- d. Technical Assistance for Farm Plan – AP filled out remaining forms for MSUE Wendolyn Weiland.
- e. Hoop House (HH) materials – RB and EP - Purchase Order (PO) approved for beds and soils. EP has details on farm where soil to be picked up. AP will request assistance from LTBB Facilities Department to move soil. DC has PO in for HH electric work, in addition to putting cost estimates together for motors and fans. Had to reorder motor for north side of HH. EP also putting quotes together for water well by HH, estimates of \$6000 along with \$850 to remove sludge.
- f. Farm Plan - JK - Technical assistance regarding LTBB Farm Plan, a resource would be the Wisconsin Farmers Union, may provide a template based on available acreage to calculate amount of fuel, seed, time and necessary equipment farm would need. Further discussion with the group, JK requests 6 month commitment to complete Farm Plan and an official vote from AAWG members to recommend Parcel #54 purchase in its entirety to LTBB Land and Reservation.

Motion made by John Keshick and supported by Regina Brubaker-Carver to recommend purchase of Parcel #54 in its entirety to LTBB Land and Reservation. JK – yes, DC – yes, AP – yes, RB – yes, RD – absent, KG – absent, MK – absent. Motion carried, 4-0-3-0.

- g. 2013 Annual Meeting – JK manned table, handed out progress reports to interested citizens. Received positive feedback from the community.
 - h. Murray Road Field Corn Plantings - Field corn planting for distribution to tribal hunters, and to begin process to ready fields for produce production following years.

Motion made by John Keshick and supported by Doug Craven to recommend the planting of 10 acres of field corn at Mtigwaakiis (Murray Road) housing site in the NW corner as shown on the site plan to LTBB Land and Reservation. JK – yes, DC – yes, AP – yes, RB – yes, RD – absent, KG – absent, MK – absent. Motion carried, 4-0-3-0.

6. Next Meeting – May 8, 2013 to be held in LTBB NRD Conference Room.

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7. Adjournment